Maintenance shut downs in the Refineries

513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian refineries have planned a series of maintenance shut downs in 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the details of maintenance shut downs, the duration of each shut down and the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years in respect of each refinery, and

(d) what safeguards have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the regular supply of oil in the country is not affected by these shut downs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Maintenance shutdowns of the various units of the refinery are planned according to requirements and normally ranges from 20 to 30 days. It is part of normal refinery operation and maintenance practices. Such maintenance shutdowns of the refineries have also been planned for 1995.

Shutdowns are planned and staggered in such a way that overall availability of petroleum products is not affected. Maintenance cost of the refineries is monitored on overall basis.

Introduction of lead-free petrol

514. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce lead-free petrol in four Metropolitan cities from April, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether scientists are divided about the utility of lead-free petrol;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether lead-free petrol is likely to increase the emission of aromatic hydrocarbons which are equally or more harmful as lead?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to introduce lead-free petrol in four metropolitan cities w.e.f. 1-4-95 through some selected number of petrol pumps to meet the demand of petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters to reduce toxic emission.

(b) to (e) There is a general consus among the scientists that lead free petrol would be desirable provided catalytic converters are installed in the petrol driven cars. Generally, unleaded petrol contains more aromatics and use of such petrol without catalytic converter is not desirable.

Allocation of gas to Fertilizer units along HBJ pipeline

515. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the allocation of natural gas for the fertilizer units along HBJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of increase in 1994 as compared to 1993?